

MCTSSA

Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity



The Advance Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) is a Joint Fire Support Battle Command system for the 21st century. It is capable of providing technical firing data and the complete flexibility to manage attacks on preplanned and time-sensitive targets. AFATDS assist the commander by improving tactical planning and control of supporting arms.

AFATDS provides fully automated support for planning, coordinating, controlling, and executing fires and effects. It supports weapon systems such as mortars, field artillery cannons, rockets, close air support, attack helicopters, and Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) systems all of which can be planned and utilized within the Marine Air Ground Task Force by AFATDS.

AFATDS also acts as a fire support "server" to LAN-based and Tactical Internet-based clients, including the AFATDS Effects Management Tool (EMT), and the USMC Command and Control Personal Computer (C2PC) EMT.



Background: AFATDS are found in a variety of environments within the Navy-Marine Team. AFATDS is used in the Marine Corps from firing battery to Marine Expeditionary Forces and is installed aboard the U.S. Navy LHA/LHD Class big deck amphibious ships to support Expeditionary Strike Groups (ESGs) for amphibious operations.

Description: The AFATDS work station is the main component of AFATDS and will receive, transmit, edit, display and process fire support request, and store data to facilitate artillery fire support direction and coordination. A full range of fire support, maneuver control coordination measures, and geometry are displayed for fire support coordination at the workstation. AFATDS operates within the existing and planned

AFATDS Fact Sheet

communication architecture (wire and tactical radios), and assists the commander with automated message delivery for coordination of supporting arms fires.



With internal and external Tactical Communication interface Modems (TCIM), an AFATDS terminal exchanges fixed and variable format messages. Specifically configured in a centralized mode of operation (FSCC), AFATDS can approve or disapprove all artillery fires in its Zone of fire by monitoring calls for fire messages of interest from subordinate operational facilities.

MCTSSA Support: MCTSSA provides engineering support for integration and interoperability to the project office through its Program Support Division. Additionally, the Operating Forces Support Division provides assistance to the operating forces through the Tactical Systems Support Center help desk 24 hours a day 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

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